

ments would see the wisdom of the argument that I was making this morning. I would be willing, in my respect for the wisdom and intelligence of those commissions, to permit them the option of seeing the unwisdom of your argument this morning.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair suggests there is not time for that lengthy an answer to the questions yet to be asked.

Delegate Gleason.

DELEGATE GLEASON: As I understand the shared powers doctrine that we have already approved, under this proviso, and specifically with reference to the phrase "or by instrument of government", it is possible under this recommendation for the State of Maryland to have local elections on twenty-four different dates, is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: That would be possible. I think the likelihood of it is extremely remote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Bard.

DELEGATE BARD: Delegate Hanson, I think the answer to my question will be yes, but I do want it in the record.

Some time ago we dealt with the matter of filling vacancies, and it was indicated that the person chosen to fill the vacancy shall serve only until the next statewide general election. The statement reads on line 7, "in every fourth year thereafter at which time state officials shall be elected". This in no sense would be contradictory to what we did in LB-2, is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: I think it contradicts it in no sense.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Hanson's time has now expired.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Schloeder to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE SCHLOEDER: Mr. Chairman, I find myself thinking about the Byrnes amendment that was passed this morning, much in the same way that the man who was asked whether or not he stopped beating his wife thinks about his reply.

I cannot get terribly excited about either one of them. I must say that this present Amendment No. 21 is a formidable array for their ad hoc committee. However, I find

that when I speak to this amendment I do not speak to that part of it that deals with the election of judges or the last line which deals with the election of the School Board of Montgomery County, because we were in the Committee very willing to accept that in theory.

I find that this is a political expedient, I am sure. As such, it is poor. I am speaking here now only for myself and not for the Committee, because the position of the Committee has been so eroded on this particular issue that I do not think that the Committee, as such, has any real interest any more in that sense. Of course, we have the interest as individual delegates, but the committee interest has been pretty well eroded.

I must say I am a bit disappointed with the Baltimore City leadership that it would abandon the substantive arguments in principle, and that they would support the separation of elections and go along with this political expedient.

It had been hoped that that leadership in its enlightenment would have seen fit to support the principle as it would apply statewide. Personally, I am tempted to say "a pox on both their houses" about these amendments, but I guess this one is better than the Byrnes amendment. I think I will simply say that I will abstain and let the chips fall where they may.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other delegates desiring to discuss the question?

Delegate Hutchinson.

DELEGATE HUTCHINSON: Mr. Chairman, a similar amendment was discussed on the floor of the Committee in the committee room, not of course with the exact wording, but a similar proposal. I must admit that I was sponsor of such a proposal.

I must also admit that I was the only vote in the Committee in favor of such a proposal, but that was not unusual for me. I still support it even though I did not introduce it, perhaps because of lack of imagination on my part. I am, however, willing to say it was discussed in Committee, and I supported it then, even though my name was on the Minority Report in favor of the Byrnes recommendation. It was for the same reasons Mr. Hanson gave that I, too, felt that if we were going to constitutionalize such a proposal it should be in the form of the Byrnes amendment.

However, I deem it necessary that I show my support in favor of such amendment